IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended) A method operable on a computer for responding to a barter order, the method comprising the steps of:

    providing to a market maker a means operable to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;

    receiving from [[a]] the market maker a rule generated with the means including at least one condition for automatically generating a contra order;

    receiving from a trader a barter order request to identify a contra barter order that includes two securities to be traded in a barter transaction, a first security to be sold in [[a]] the barter transaction and a second security to be purchased in the barter transaction;

    matching on the computer the barter order request to the at least one condition comprising the rule; ~~and~~

    automatically responding to the barter order request in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule, if the at least one condition is satisfied, including automatically generating ~~a contra barter order that includes~~ the contra order;

    providing to the trader the contra order for acceptance by the trader; and

    repeating, for each barter order request received from a trader, the steps of matching, automatically responding and providing, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.

2.   (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

at least one of the first security or the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order request further including an effective time range.

3.   (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the at least one condition includes at least one variable selected from the group of variables including: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship of the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

4.   (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein each of the conditions further includes a mathematical operator and a value.

5.   (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein:

the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative; and

if the rule is operative and if the at least one condition of the rule is satisfied, then further comprising the steps of :

if the barter offer request is a limit order, performing one of the steps of

trading the first and second securities, and

posting the barter order request for consideration for execution;

if the barter order request is a market order, trading the first and second securities; and

if a contra barter order is accepted, trading the first and second securities.

6.   (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the step of automatically responding includes prompting an operator to provide a manual response.

7.   (currently amended) A system for responding to a financial order, the system comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to the processor ~~and storing a barter order request from a trader including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter~~;

~~said memory further storing a rule received from a market maker including at least one condition for automatically generating a contra order~~;

the processor operative with control instructions stored in the memory to perform the steps of

providing to a market maker a means operable to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;

receiving from the market maker a rule generated with the means including at least one condition for automatically generating at least one contra order;

receiving from a trader a barter order request to identify a contra barter order that includes two securities to be traded in a barter transaction, a first security to be sold in the barter

transaction and a second security to be purchased in the barter transaction;

matching on the computer the barter order request to the at least one condition comprising the rule; ~~and~~

automatically responding to the barter order request in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule, if the rule is satisfied, including automatically generating ~~a contra barter order that includes~~ the contra order;

providing to the trader the contra order for acceptance by the trader; and

repeating, for each barter order request received from a trader, the steps of matching, automatically responding and providing, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.

8.   (previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein:

at least one of the first security or the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order request further including an effective time range.

9.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the at least one condition includes at least one variable selected from the group of variables including: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship of the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

10.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 9 wherein each of the conditions further includes a mathematical operator and a value.

11.   (previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative; and

if the rule is operative and if the at least one condition of the rule is satisfied, further comprising the steps of :

if the barter order request is a limit order, performing one of the steps of

trading the first and second securities, and

posting the barter order request for consideration for execution;

if the barter order request is a market order, trading the first and second securities; and

if a contra barter order is accepted, trading the first and second securities.

12.   (previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 7 wherein the step of automatically responding includes prompting an operator to provide a manual response.

13.   (currently amended) A method for responding to a barter order, the method comprising the steps of:

providing to a market maker a means operable to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;

receiving from [[a]] the market maker a rule generated with the means including at least one condition for automatically generating a contra order;

receiving from a trader a barter order request to identify a contra barter order that includes two securities to be traded in a barter transaction, a first security to be sold in [[a]] the barter transaction and a second security to be purchased in the barter transaction;

matching the barter order request to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and

automatically responding to the barter order request in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule, if the at least one condition is satisfied, including automatically generating a contra barter order that includes the contra order;

providing to the trader the contra order for acceptance by the trader; and

repeating, for each barter order request received from a trader, the steps of matching, automatically responding and providing, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.

14.   (currently amended) A system for responding to a barter order, the system comprising:

means for providing to a market maker a means operable to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;

means for receiving from [[a]] the market maker a rule generated with the means including at least one condition for automatically generating a contra order;

means for receiving from a trader a barter order request to identify a contra barter order

that includes <u>two securities to be traded in a barter transaction,</u> a first security to be sold in [[a]] <u>the</u> barter <u>transaction</u> and a second security to be purchased in the barter <u>transaction</u> a contra barter order;

means for matching the barter order request to the at least one condition comprising the rule; and

means for automatically responding to the barter order in accordance with the at least one condition of the rule, if the at least one condition is satisfied, including <u>automatically</u> generating a contra barter order that includes the contra order<u>;</u>

<u>providing to the trader the contra order; and</u>

<u>repeating, for each barter order request received from a trader, the steps of matching, automatically responding and providing, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.</u>

15.   (currently amended) A method operable on a computer for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:

storing on said computer a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;

<u>providing to a market maker a graphical user interface providing access to the plurality of variables and the plurality of operators, the graphical user interface operable by the market maker to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;</u>

receiving through [[a]] <u>the</u> graphical user interface input from [[a]] <u>the</u> market maker selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition <u>for automatically generating contra orders</u>;

responsive to the input, selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically generating a contra order for responding to the barter order; and

automatically generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, a contra barter order including the contra order<u>; and</u>

<u>repeating, for each barter order, the step of automatically generating, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.</u>

16.   (original) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein:

at least one of the first security and the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order further including an effective time range.

17.   (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the input from the market maker includes selecting at least one variable from the plurality of variables, at least one operator from the plurality of operators and at least one constraint to form the at least one condition.

18.   (original) A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein the plurality of variables includes: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship between the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

19.   (original) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative.

20.   (currently amended) A system for establishing rules to respond to barter orders, comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively connected to said processor and storing a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter;

the memory further storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators, the memory further storing instructions operable with the processor to cause the processor to perform the steps of:

providing to a market maker a graphical user interface providing access to the plurality of variables and the plurality of operators, the graphical user interface operable by the market maker to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;

receiving through [[a]] the graphical user interface input from [[a]] the market maker;

responsive to the input, selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at

least one condition;

~~responsive to the input,~~ selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically generating a contra order for responding to the barter order; ~~and~~

<u>automatically</u> generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, ~~a contra barter order based upon~~ the contra order<u>; and</u>

<u>repeating, for each barter order, the step of automatically generating, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.</u>

21.   (currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein:

at least one of the first security and the second security includes a quantity thereof; and

the barter order further including ~~an time~~ <u>a time range and a</u> date range.

22.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein the selecting step includes selecting at least one variable from the plurality of variables, at least one operator from the plurality of operators and at least one constraint to form the at least one condition.

23.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 22 wherein the plurality of variables includes: the identity of one or more of the first and second securities, the delta between the buy and sell prices of the first and second securities, the relationship between the SIC codes of the first or second securities or any other securities, the market cap of the first or second securities, the average daily volume traded of the first or second securities and the debit value of the bid/ask spread of the first and second securities.

24.   (original) A system in accordance with claim 20 wherein the rule further includes at least one pricing tier comprising an offer price range within which a rule is operative and an offer size value up to which a rule is operative.

25.   (currently amended) A method for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;

<u>providing to a market maker a graphical user interface providing access to the plurality of</u>

variables and the plurality of operators, the graphical user interface operable by the market maker to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;

receiving input through the graphical user interface from [[a]] the market maker;

responsive to the input, selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition;

~~responsive to the input,~~ selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for automatically generating a contra order for responding to the barter order; ~~and~~

automatically generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, ~~a contra barter order based upon~~ the contra order; and

repeating, for each barter order, the step of automatically generating, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.

26.   (currently amended) A system for establishing rules to respond to a barter order, the barter order including a first security to be sold in a barter and a second security to be purchased in the barter, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of variables and a plurality of operators;

means for providing to a market maker a graphical user interface providing access to the plurality of variables and the plurality of operators, the graphical user interface operable by the market maker to generate a plurality of rules for automatically responding to barter orders;

means for receiving through the graphical user interface input from [[a]] the market maker;

means, responsive to the input, for selecting from the plurality of variables and operators to form at least one condition;

means, ~~responsive to the input,~~ for selecting the at least one condition to form a rule for generating a contra order for responding to the barter order; ~~and~~

means for automatically generating, if the at least one condition is satisfied, responsive to the barter order, ~~a contra barter order based upon~~ the contra order; and

means for repeating, for each barter order, the step of automatically generating, whereby to provide liquidity in a financial trading system for barter orders.

27 – 135 (cancelled)

136.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 or 13 wherein the contra barter order

includes the first security and the second security.

137.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1 or 13 wherein the contra barter order is an

implied order including at least a first barter order and one of the group comprising a second

barter order and a single-sided order.

138.   (previously presented)The system of claim 7 or 14 wherein the contra barter order

includes the first security and the second security.

139.   (previously presented) The system of claim 7 or 14 wherein the contra barter order is an

implied order including at least a first barter order and one of the group comprising a second

barter order and a single-sided order.

140.   (new) The method of claim 1 or 13 wherein the step of automatically responding to the

barter order includes responding to an implied order.

141.   (new) The method of claim 15 or 25 wherein the step of automatically generating the

contra order includes generating an implied order.